

The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32

Small Group Questions



Introduction:

Jesus is telling a story about 2 sons, in which one totally insults his father, takes his inheritance and runs away from home. While away, he uses all his money on frivolous living, wasting the money on food, parties and woman. When he realizes he's messed up big time and, he heads back home, where his father was waiting. The son who was lost has come back, found the belonging he was searching for (with his father) and is restored fully, receiving a gift of son ship, despite his awful frivolity.

Discussion:

We all search for a place to belong, we all want to fit in. This puts us on a journey seeking out a place we can say: "I BELONG HERE".

- How is this story (The story of the Prodigal Son) a story of belonging?
- What do you think of the Bad son?
- What do you think of the Good Son?
- What do you think of the Father?

Explanation:

-The Father in this story went against the expectations of the culture (by running, hugging, kissing and welcoming his lost son back).

- Why do you think this father did this?
- What does all this mean for us? What does this story say about where we belong?
- Do you see yourself as the "bad" son? If so how, or why? If not, why not?

Application:

-God offers US sonship/daughtership with him. We, like the "bad" or Lost Son have walked away from Him (our father). We too must come to our senses and realize that nothing else this world offers will be a place we can belong like with the Father.

-READ 1 Peter 2:1-5—putting away our sins and craving Jesus, like this verse says is how we come to our senses. How can you this week "come to your senses"? What things will you need to "put away"?

-FOR TAKE HOME: Challenge the teens to read 1 Peter 2:1-12 and re-read Luke 15:11-32 so they can remember to "come to their senses" during the week